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EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY 093224 051207Z /12
DATE
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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ORIGIN SCS-05
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R
DRAFTED BY CA/SCS/EAPOWERS/CEH
APPROVED BY CA/SCS/FXLAMBERT
SCS/RLRIVERA

P 050324Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:CASC, (PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBER)
SUBJECT:W/W MARSHALL FARRIS, AUG 5, 1907, ARKANSAS

1. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED BY [redacted] E B6
MARSHALL FARRIS. FAMILY CONCERNED ABOUT FARRIS WHO LEFT UNITED STATES IN EARLY AUGUST TO JOIN PEOPLES TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY. [redacted] STATES THAT MR. E B6
FARRIS SOLD ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, LEAVING HIS WIFE WITH CAR AND HOUSE AND NO REAL INCOME. HE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVES ABOUT DOLLARS 600 (SIX HUNDRED) PER MONTH IN RETIREMENT BENEFITS. SINCE HIS DEPARTURE HE HAS WRITTEN ONLY ONE LETTER, [redacted] WHICH E B6
FAMILY DESCRIBES AS ABSOLUTE DRIBBLE. FAMILY ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH [redacted] AND ARKANSAS SPELLED INCORRECTLY E B6
ON ENVELOPE. FAMILY BELIEVE HAND WRITING TO BE THAT OF FARRIS BUT STATE THAT LETTER SOUNDS FORCED AND ARTIFICIAL. FAMILY WISHES TO KNOW FOLLOWING: (1) IS FARRIS ACTUALLY AT THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY, IS HE IN GOOD HEALTH? (2) IF A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TRAVELLED TO GUYANA WOULD THAT PERSON BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO JONESTOWN, IF SO, WHAT IS

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INVOLVED? (3) WHAT SORT OF VISAS IS THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT ISSUING TO MEMBERS OF THE SECT? (4) WHAT ORT OF CONTROL IS KEPT, I.E., IF A MEMBER DIED WOULD THAT BE KNOWN TO LOCAL OFFICIALS AND WOULD SECT LEADERS STILL BE ABLE TO CASH THEIR RETIREMENT CHECKS?

2. DEPOFF EXPLAINED TO [redacted] THAT CONSUL HAD VISITED E B6
JONESTOWN, THAT LOCATION WAS DIFFICULT TO VISIT FROM GEORGETOWN, THAT DURING VISIT CONSUL HAD SPOKEN WITH MANY AMCITS AND HAD NO DOUBT THAT ANY WHO SO WISHED COULD HAVE DEPARTED WITH HIM. [redacted] GREATLY CONCERNED AS SHE E B6
BELIEVES MEMBERS ARE EFFECTIVELY BRAINWASHED BY SECT LEADERS. SHE STATES THAT FARRIS HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH PEOPLES TEMPLE FOR MANY YEARS BUT FAMILY NEVER HAD ANY IDEA THAT HE WOULD LEAVE HOME AND FAMILY AND GO OFF TO FOREIGN COUNTRY. DEPOFF EXPLAINED THAT POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH FARRIS WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL CONSUL COULD AGAIN ARRANGE TO VISIT JONESTOWN.

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3. POST REQUESTED ATTEMPT CONTACT MR. FARRIS. EXPLAIN THE GREAT FAMILY CONCERN FOR HIM, ESPECIALLY [redacted] E B6
[redacted] CONSTERNATION AT HIS PRESENCE IN JONESTOWN. OBTAIN PRIVACY ACT AUTHORIZATION IF POSSIBLE, AND REQUEST HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS FAMILY.
4. REPLY CONCERNING FARIS'S WELFARE AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARA ONE MAY BE SENT VIA DIRECT RELAY CABLE TO [redacted] E B6
VANCE

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